

WM. M. OVERTON, CH. MAURICE SMITH,  
AND BEVERLEY TUCKER.

FEBRUARY 16, 1855.

Our O. H. P. SEM, is our authorized agent for collecting accounts due this office, and for obtaining new subscribers in Virginia.

## WHAT IS THE KNOW-NOTHING IDEA OF "STATE RIGHTS."

If we understand aright, the policy of the Abolitionists, it is to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia, to abolish the inter-State slave trade, to exclude slavery from all the Territories of the United States, and to repeal the Fugitive Slave law. By thus penning up the institution and denying it vent and ventilation, they hope to force the present slave States to abolish it. This is the policy of the leading Abolitionists, nearly all of whom deny to Congress the direct power to abolish slavery in the States.

What think the Know-nothings on the subject? The opinion of the Massachusetts Know-nothings has recently been expressed in the election of Senator Wilson, who, in endorsing Mr. Burlingame's lecture, gave his solemn sanction to the views above indicated.

What thinks the *Organ*? It thinks with Mr. Burlingame and Senator Wilson, that Congress cannot abolish slavery in the States. So far so good. That is a view that the rank Abolitionist may entertain. But what does it think of the power of Congress to abolish slavery in the District, to exclude it from the Territories, to abolish the slave trade between the States, and to repeal the fugitive slave law? On these points it is discreetly and obstinately dumb. The platform of the Know-nothings does not require any such expression of opinion. Now, far be it from us to impute wrong sentiments to the *Organ*. We do not mean to do so either by positive charge or covert innuendo. We simply desire that the *Organ* will express its opinions. The South will not be satisfied with its unmeaning declaration that—

"Whatever may be our opinions of the policy or impolicy of the repeal of the above-named laws, it will be time enough to express them when the occasion demands it."

But, should the *Organ* conceal the matter and express itself against the repeal of the above laws and against the abolition of slavery in the District, and its exclusion from the Territories, it must still go a little further and prove its faith by its works. It must repudiate all the members of its order who hold the opposite views.

As the matter stands at present the *Organ* accepts, as a "strict constructionist," and a "State Rights" man, the new Senator from Massachusetts, who holds all the Abolition sentiments above indicated. It accepts him as such, because he has said, in a letter, that he is a "State Rights" man.

What is the *Organ's* idea of a "State Rights" man? We feel anxious to know. It seems to be this, that he may hold the sentiments uttered by Mr. Burlingame, a new Know-nothing congressman, and endorsed in every word by Senator Wilson, which sentiments are as follows:

"If asked to state specifically what he would do, he would answer:—1st, repeal the Nebraska bill; 2d, repeal the fugitive slave law; 3d, abolish slavery in the District of Columbia; 4th, abolish the inter-State slave trade; next he would declare that slavery should not spread to one inch of the territory of the Union; he would then put the Government actually and perpetually on a tight-rope of freedom—by which he means that the high-spirited boy in Massachusetts should have a good chance for promotion in the Navy as a boy of one of the first families in Virginia. He would have our foreign consuls take side with the noble Kosuth and against the Papal butcher Bedini. He would have judges who believed in a higher law, and an anti-slavery constitution, an anti-slavery Bible, and an anti-slavery God!"

Because Mr. Burlingame and Senator Wilson do not, as is the case with many of the rank Abolitionists, claim for Congress the direct power to abolish slavery in the States, he is, in the contemplation of the *Organ*, a "State Rights" man.

The *Organ* says again:—  
"We repeat, then, the 'American party' is not responsible for Senator Wilson's individual opinions on the question of slavery, for he was not elected on any such issue."

The "American party" ought to make the question of slavery "an issue." If it does not—if it elects Abolitionists in consequence of the wilful omission of this issue, it cannot expect southerners to be stupid enough to remain in the order.

## THE VIRGINIA SCRIP BILL.

We take from the Richmond Enquirer the following communication on the subject of the Virginia Scrip Bill which recently passed the House of Representatives. We cordially unite with the correspondent of the Enquirer, in the hope that a measure so just in itself, affecting in so high a degree, the dignity of the State, and involving the interests of so many of her citizens, will soon receive the co-operation of the Senate and the sanction of the Executive.

The generous bounty of Virginia in ceding her immense domain to the Union, demands from the Federal Government a generous recognition of the claims of her children:

To the Editors of the Enquirer:—  
WASHINGTON, Feb. 10, 1855.  
A measure of great importance to our State has just passed the House of Representatives. I mean a bill declaratory of the Scrip Act of August 31, 1852. It is of value to us, not in a pecuniary view only, but in another sense. It wipes off a stain which, had too long rested on the escutcheon of Virginia. Under the provisions of the act of 1852, the judgments of the tribunals of Virginia were not only reviewed, but, in about an equal number of cases, overruled and reversed, although it has been settled, from the foundation of the Union, that the construction of the State laws by the State tribunals of last resort, is a part of the law, and binding on the United States. The thing involved a gross indignity to a sovereign State, and great loss and annoyance to our citizens; but the bill just passed the House, if it becomes a law, will remedy the wrong.

It is now in the Senate, but it is understood that the Secretary of the Interior and the Commissioner of the General Land Office are active in opposition to it, and will endeavor to defeat it in the Senate. But I trust, as I presumed that there must be some mistake in this; for it is hardly to be supposed that, after a measure has received the decided sanction of the popular branch of the people's representatives, an executive officer would presume to interfere

with the legislative action. One thing is certain: the defeat of the bill now, after near three years of vexatious delay and deferred hope, will be the source, to thousands of our people, of serious disappointment and bitter dissatisfaction.

Judge Caske made a most strenuous effort to have the bill reported and put on its passage. That he should have succeeded, at so late a period of the session, and of a short session, argues an energy and influence highly creditable to him both as a representative and as a man. He is entitled to the thanks of the thousands of our needy citizens who are interested in the bill, and of all who value the honor and dignity of our State.

Yours, truly, X.

THE "KANSAAS SENTINEL."

This is the title of a paper to be established in the new Territory of Kansas. It will be published and edited by John T. Brady and Edmon Byrley, esqs. The prospectus states that—

"It will advocate the exclusive right of the people of the Territories to regulate their own municipal affairs."

"It will fearlessly denounce any attempt of Congress to legislate upon the subject of slavery in the States or Territories."

"It will boldly maintain and advocate the constitutional rights of the South, and will advocate and defend the wholesome utility of the Southern institution."

"It will use all honorable means to sustain and maintain permanently upon the rich soil of Kansas the institutions of the South."

The terms are for the weekly \$2.00; Tri-weekly \$6.00—in advance. Address of editors—Westport, Missouri.

The above chart of principles will command the approbation of all who value the constitution, recognize the rights of the States, and feel an interest in the proper settlement of the young Territory of Kansas. We wish success to this new enterprise, and hope that it will be cheered and encouraged by the patronage of the citizens of the old slave-holding States—for they are most deeply interested in the success of the principles and objects which it promises to advocate.

Bancroft against Know-nothingism.

The great historian, in an address recently delivered before the New York Historical Society, spoke eloquently and justly of the obligations due from the American people. He views the great subject from an elevated standpoint, and his utterance of truth meets with a warm and cordial response from the hearts of all truly patriotic men. He says:

"Our land is more the recipient of all countries than that of their ideas. Annihilate the past, and our land is a blank page. Our destiny, our destiny, has been changed. Italy and Spain, in the persons of Columbus and Isabella, joined together for the great discovery that opened America to emigration and commerce; France contributed to its independence; the search for the origin of the language we speak, carries us to India; our religion is from Palestine; of the hymns sung in our churches, some were written in Spain, and our destiny, would have been changed. Italy and Spain, in the persons of Columbus and Isabella, joined together for the great discovery that opened America to emigration and commerce; France contributed to its independence; the search for the origin of the language we speak, carries us to India; our religion is from Palestine; of the hymns sung in our churches, some were written in Spain, and our destiny, would have been changed."

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## OBSERVATIONS ON THE HISTORY OF VIRGINIA.

A DISCOURSE

Delivered before the Virginia Historical Society, at their 41st Annual Meeting, December 14, 1854.

By Hon. R. M. T. Hunter.

Mr. President and Gentlemen:

of the Virginia Historical Society.

When I received the invitation to deliver your annual discourse, I was so well aware that I could not bring to the task that fullness of knowledge which is essential to a just and accurate subject, that my first impulse was to decline the honor, highly as I esteemed it. But, upon subsequent reflection, it struck me that I might perhaps be able to do justice to the subject, by a public attention, in some degree, to the great importance of the objects of your pursuit, and the high value of such labors not only to ourselves, but to others.

It is not to be denied that the history of a people is a subject of great importance to the people themselves, and to the world at large. It is a subject which should be the study of every citizen, and of every man of letters. It is a subject which should be the study of every citizen, and of every man of letters. It is a subject which should be the study of every citizen, and of every man of letters.

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resources, whose development is so important to a high national character?

If the uses of human history be such as approximate to those I have described, how can we over-estimate their importance, or that of the faithful historian? The uses of history, to the people, do not mean him who narrates events in a list of names and sentences. He who preserves a record of thoughts and sentiments, is as much to be valued as the historian, as he who chronicles human actions and passions, and who preserves a record of the uses of posterity, performs the duty of a historian, no matter what the shape in which it may be perpetuated as a possession to mankind. The history of a people, to the people, is the history of the time of Pericles, than Phidias; from the one we learn the march of its events, from the other the state of the arts; and realize a conception of the human mind, and the progress of the human race, which the history of the past could not give to the thought of after ages. The Elgin marbles are as valuable to us in an historical point of view, as the most splendid passages of Thucydides, and the friezes of the Parthenon.

There are so many pictured pages, which speak of the past to the mind and eye of the beholder, and almost with the force of a living witness. Whatever preserves an idea or the memory of a fact for the benefit of man, is historical in its nature. The history of a people, to the people, is the history of the time of Pericles, than Phidias; from the one we learn the march of its events, from the other the state of the arts; and realize a conception of the human mind, and the progress of the human race, which the history of the past could not give to the thought of after ages. The Elgin marbles are as valuable to us in an historical point of view, as the most splendid passages of Thucydides, and the friezes of the Parthenon.

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